

*News from Lockheed's : Private Airlines Start Bristol Channel Services : Dr. Warner at I.C.A.O. Meeting*



## CIVIL AVIATION NEWS

### COMMONWEALTH MEETING

AS delegates proceeding to Geneva for the I.C.A.O. General Assembly passed through London, the Minister of Civil Aviation invited Commonwealth delegates to informal meetings of the Commonwealth Air Transport Council of which he, as Minister, was recently elected permanent chairman. The discussions centred around the form of international agreements for civil aviation. Lord Nathan said that he was disappointed by the results of the Geneva conference on multilateral agreement last November, but one feature clearly emerged, he said, and that was a very large measure of agreement on the objectives, whereas there was disagreement on the methods by which they should be reached. There were the Bermuda and the anti-Bermuda schools of thought, and he thought at Geneva a third was discernible. He thought that it would perhaps be better to put respective viewpoints to the test through the medium of bilateral agreements for a while longer during which time a solution might be discovered. He warned his listeners that in seeking order in the air we must avoid over-regulation which could easily develop into strangling restrictionism.

Another item on the agenda was the proposal to delete Article 41 of the Chicago Convention, which affects the airworthiness regulations for aircraft. The delegates discussed the provision of ground facilities on Commonwealth routes, the future organization of the committees for the Commonwealth and Empire on radio for civil aviation, and on air navigation and ground organization.

### LOCKHEED DEVELOPMENTS

DURING a brief stay in London on his way to the Second Annual Assembly of I.C.A.O. at Geneva, where he is representing the American aircraft manufacturers, Dr. Hall L. Hibbard, vice-president and chief engineer of the Lockheed Corporation, found time to tell us something about the activities of his firm at Burbank, California.

Among the interesting items which he disclosed was the fact that it has been found possible to add 3,000 lb to the take-off and landing weights of the Constellation. This will bring the figures for the latest model up to 105,000 lb and 87,500 lb respectively. The modification is mainly to the inner wings and undercarriage, and the necessary parts, which can be supplied to operators in kit form, weigh only 309 lb, so that the modified "Connie" will represent a substantial increase in payload or range or a combination of the two. The modifications can be incorporated in all the machines for which they are desired by next spring. The machines will still fully meet I.C.A.O. requirements.

An experiment which will be followed with great interest is the installation of Wright compound engines, in which the energy in the exhaust gases is geared back to the engine shaft. Very economical fuel consumption is expected (some 0.38 lb/h.p. at cruising speed). It is also possible that this new power plant will be tried out



Dr. H. L. Hibbard.

**FOR B.O.A.C.?** A Mark II North Star operated by T.C.A. approaching Montreal Airport. There is a definite backing of opinion in the House of Commons behind the suggestion that this Canadian-built aircraft powered by Rolls-Royce engines should be used by B.O.A.C.

in a P2B (better known here as *The Truculent Turtle*, which holds the world's distance record with 11,236 miles), several of which are now in production for the U.S. Navy.

Of the Constitution Dr. Hibbard said that two are on order for the U.S. Navy and will be delivered soon. They have cost 27 million dollars to develop, and it might be some years before commercial operators were financially able to buy such machines, but the Constitution has been designed for gas turbines so as to be available when these are developed.

### CARDIFF TO WESTON AGAIN

SCHEDULED ferry services between Cardiff and Weston-super-Mare were resumed on May 25th. They are being operated by Western Airways, Ltd., and Cambrian Air Services, Ltd., as associates of B.E.A., and seven-seater Avro Ansons and eight-seater D.H. Rapides are being used. During this month there will be six services a day in each direction, but the frequency will be increased to 13 per day each way during the next three months, with supplementary services as required. The fare will be 14s 6d single and 22s 6d return, an increase on the 9s single and 16s 6d return fares when the service was operated by B.E.A. last summer. Landing fees charged by the M.C.A. have been reduced from 25s to 6s. Transport is available at Cardiff between the airfield and the town, but at Weston the transport will be provided by the operating companies on which fares will be charged. Overall charges were made by B.E.A. All enquiries should now be addressed direct to the operating companies.

### CANADIAN AVIATION POLICY

ON May 16th Mr. H. J. Symington, the former president of Trans-Canada Airlines said at Montreal: "Canada is still for the open air." He was referring to the principle of freedom in the air throughout the world advocated by America and Canada and to which there has been opposition from European countries. "It must be in the form of a proper international convention, he said, where every country gives up the same rights which it receives, and where the restraining influence of continual meetings to get this and that privilege would cease to exist. It must be a convention that all who want to fly across our country may do so, and that points in dispute be left to an international body and not to one country. Canada went to the first civil aviation conference in Chicago with the first multilateral agreement. If that had been accepted, he said, it would have been an example to all other conferences which had followed and run into similar difficulties. Canada's outlook was, he said, an international one. Competition was going to be keen and a convention was hoped for which would stop international bickerings.

### WORLD FACILITATION DISCUSSIONS

DR. EDWARD WARNER, president of the Council of I.C.A.O., referred at a meeting of the Facilitation Division in May, to the reduction in customs, immigra-